



The Boyhood Chronicle

Lincoln Parks Handbook Wins Awards

As the year of 2009 came to a close, so too, did the official year of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial. For those of us working at Lincoln related parks it had been a commemoration that had literally been years in the making. I began attending planning meetings as early as 2001 and there were many of them over the years with many interested parties, both inside and outside of the NPS. For those of us within the NPS, it was immediately apparent that we wanted to play an active and visible role in the observance. As caretakers of the primary sites associated with Abraham Lincoln and his life, we felt it was our responsibility, and our privilege, to do all that we could to honor this great American and to help present day Americans to learn more about him. To that end we quickly set about preparing lists of projects that we could develop and activities we could plan to properly observe this important Bicentennial. Not all of those projects and plans made it to fruition, but one that did was especially successful and appears to have had the kind of impact for which we had hoped.

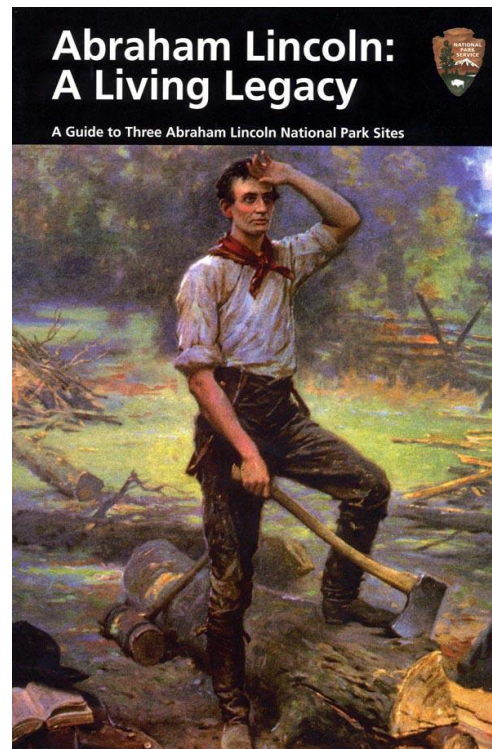
The handbook, *Abraham Lincoln: A Living Legacy*, was a joint effort by the staffs of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHP, Lincoln Boyhood NM, and Lincoln Home NHS. Chief of Interpretation Sandy Brue, Park Historian Tim Townsend and I, each wrote the chapters for our respective parks. Funding from Eastern National made it possible to hire Diana Bailey, a

skilled editor, and to have the book published. Based on the same easily identifiable style of handbooks available at National Parks across the country, it includes more than 160 photographs, maps and historic images illustrating the story of the 16th president. It quickly became a bestseller at each park and since its publication in February 2008, has received several awards.

In September 2009 it was selected as a winner in the 2009 American Graphic Design Awards. In November 2009 it received Third Place in the Media Awards Competition from the National Association for

Interpretation. At the annual Association of Partners for Public Lands convention in February 2010, it was awarded the 2010 Director's Award for Excellence in Interpretive Media.

It is gratifying to have the hard work of many people acknowledged and recognized for its quality, but I think I speak for all of us when I say that it is especially satisfying to have contributed something of value not only to the observance of the Lincoln Bicentennial, but to the continuing legacy of a great man and all that we can still learn from him.



Message from the Lincoln Boyhood Superintendent

It is a funny sort of reverse journey from Washington, D.C, in 2010 to Lincoln's boyhood in 1816. Lincoln grew up on the frontier to become a shrewd and pivotal figure in American history, while I have left behind the presumed sophistication of modern Beltway politics to tunnel deep into the Indiana forest as well as my own ignorance. Like so many Americans, I knew little about how this place shaped the man who was to become our 16th president.

The metaphor of my journey was complete when I arrived during a record-breaking, snow-filled winter — perhaps not so different from the 1816 “year without a summer” when it froze into August. But as the snow melts and I learn more of Lincoln's story, I have come to realize that, despite the intervening years, this place that served as the backdrop for Lincoln's boyhood is the same in all the important respects as it was then. It was the community of Spencer County, as much as the brush-filled land, that allowed Lincoln to grow up and develop his potential. Since my arrival, I have discovered that the community surrounding the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is still very vibrant and strong.

This is a beautiful and compelling place and I have been roundly welcomed here by a competent and caring staff and many friends of this place that create the modern-day community of Lincoln Boyhood. I am heartened that I too now have the chance to learn from this place and the people who live here. Who knows, maybe I'll finally get my long-awaited growth spurt too!

Kendell Thompson

Lincoln Day 2010

On Sunday, February 7, 2010, the annual Lincoln Day program was held. Mr. Jason Emerson, an independent historian and author, was the featured speaker. Mr. Emerson is the author of *Lincoln, the Inventor* and has had articles published in *American Heritage*, *American History*, and *Civil War Times* magazines, the *Journal of the Illinois Historical Society*, *Lincoln Herald*, and *Lincoln Forum Bulletin*. He is writing a biography of Robert Todd Lincoln, to be published by Southern Illinois University Press.

The 2010 Lincoln Day program included presentation of the colors by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, special music provided by members of the Heritage Hills High School Choir, and other ceremonial activities to honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln and his family.

Following the indoor program, the traditional pilgrimage to the gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln for a wreath laying ceremony was held.

All of the 115 people in attendance were invited to a reception in the Memorial Visitor Center at the conclusion of the program.



Member of the Sons of Union Veterans reciting poem about Nancy Hanks Lincoln at the gravesite



Jason Emerson, author of *Lincoln, the Inventor*, speaks at the 2010 Lincoln Day program

Snapshots of Winter



This winter was one of the snowiest we have had in several years.

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
preserves the site of the farm where
Abraham Lincoln spent 14 formative years of
his life, from the ages of 7 to 21.

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The National Park Service cares for the
special places saved by the American
people so that all may experience our
heritage.

Maintenance workers Tim Thompson and Connie Luthy work on replacing the roof of the barn at the Lincoln Living Historical Farm.



Other projects that will be
accomplished soon include the
installation of a new vault toilet at the
head of the nature trail, the repair of the
toilets at the farm parking lot and the
replacement of the allee irrigation
system.



Jack Kroger welcomes Superintendent
Kendell Thompson to Lincoln Boyhood
NM as Dean Dorrell, Adam Dickey,
and Bill Bartelt look on. An open
house was held in December for park
neighbors to meet Kendell.



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In the early years of the park's development, school children were encouraged to help raise funds by bringing money to school. One little girl, Barbara Jackson, aged 6, was upset one day because she had forgotten to bring her money with her so she ran home and breathlessly exclaimed to her mother, "Mother, please give me some money to take to school. Lincoln's mother is dead and they need us kids to help pay the funeral expenses!"

Excerpt from letter in Lincoln Boyhood NM archives

and "O Mother, please give me some money to take to school, Lincoln's mother is dead, and they want us kids to help pay the funeral expenses."

